

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 AID-05 PC-01 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W  
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R 201207Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8220  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 4700

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 4700 VICE 4800)

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, TW  
SUBJECT: ROC SUPPLEMENTAL ELECTIONS

SUMMARY: THE ROC HAS ESTABLISHED A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION OFFICE TO SUPERVISE SUPPLEMENTAL ELECTIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE YUAN AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS IN DECEMBER, 1978, AND CONTROL YUAN SEATS IN EARLY 1979. THE KMT MAY DECIDE TO PERMIT MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT CHOSEN AS OFFICIAL PARTY CANDIDATES TO RUN IN THE ELECTIONS WITHOUT FEAR OF PARTY DISCIPLINE. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL PAPERS JULY 18 REPORTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION OFFICE; THE CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO SAID THE NEW OFFICE WILL STUDY THE POSSIBLE DATES FOR ELECTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL LEGISLATIVE YUAN AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, AND CONCLUDED THE MOST PROBABLE DATE WOULD BE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1978. SUPPLEMENTAL CONTROL YUAN MEMBERS WILL BE ELECTED IN EARLY  
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1979. THE KMT REPORTEDLY WILL ACCEPT REGISTRATION OF PARTY NOMINEES FROM JULY 15 TO JULY 21. COMMENT: THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ELECTION OFFICE HAS BEEN SET UP IS A POSITIVE INDICATION THAT THE GROC IS PREPARING TO HOLD THE ELECTIONS ON SCHEDULE.

2. A TOTAL OF 53 LEGISLATIVE YUAN MEMBERS WILL BE

CHOSEN IN DECEMBER. 38 OF THESE WILL BE ELECTED FROM TAIWAN AND FUKIEN PROVINCES (CHINMEN AND LIENCHIANG COUNTIES ONLY), TAIPEI MUNICIPALITY AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS. 15 MEMBERS WILL BE SELECTED FROM OVERSEAS CHINESE GROUPS AND APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT (THIS IS A FIXED NUMBER). THE 38 ELECTED MEMBERS REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF ONE COMPARED WITH 1975 DUE TO POPULATION INCREASES.

3. 56 NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN WILL BE ELECTED IN DECEMBER, AN INCREASE OF 3 OVER THE 1972 FIGURES, DUE TO POPULATION INCREASES. ALL 56 MEMBERS WILL BE ELECTED FROM TAIWAN AND FUKIEN PROVINCES, TAIPEI MUNICIPALITY AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS.

4. 15 CONTROL YUAN MEMBERS (A FIXED NUMBER) WILL BE CHOSEN IN EARLY 1979. SEVEN WILL BE ELECTED BY THE TAIWAN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY AND THREE BY THE TAIPEI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. (THESE ARE NOT CHOSEN BY DIRECT POPULAR ELECTIONS AS ARE THE LEGISLATIVE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS. BECAUSE THE BODIES SELECTING THE CONTROL YUAN MEMBERS ARE DOMINATED BY THE KMT, OTHER PARTIES' CANDIDATES AND NON-PARTY CANDIDATES HAVE VIRTUALLY NO HOPE OF ELECTION TO THESE POSITIONS WITHOUT ASSISTANCE FROM THE KMT. AS A COURTESY TO THE CHINA YOUTH AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTIES IN PREVIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELECTIONS THE KMT RESERVED SEVERAL SEATS FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER PARTIES.) FIVE CONTROL YUAN MEMBERS WILL BE SELECTED FROM OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITIES AND APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT.

5. THE FIGURES OF ONE ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE YUAN SEAT AND THREE ADDITIONAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS ARE BASED ON POPULATION INCREASES AS OF SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS AND ARE ALREADY DETERMINED; HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN FORMALLY ANNOUNCED BY THE ELECTION COMMITTEE. THEY ARE REGARDED BY LOCAL PRESS AS PREDICTABLE ADDITIONS.

6. THE CHINESE LANGUAGE TSU LI WAN PAO IN AN ANALYTIC STORY ON JULY 13 REPORTED THAT THE KMT WILL ADOPT A MORE OPEN ATTITUDE IN THE UPCOMING DECEMBER ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO TLWP, THOSE PARTY MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT NOMINATED BY THE KMT MAY STILL RUN AS CANDIDATES IN THE ELECTIONS AND WILL NOT BE DISCIPLINED.

7. COMMENT: IF THE OPEN POLICY IN PARA 5 IS ADOPTED BY THE KMT (AS WE HAVE ALSO HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES IS

LIKELY) IT WILL REDUCE THE DANGER OF FORCING PROMISING  
YOUNG POLITICIANS OUT OF THE PARTY (AS OCCURRED  
WITH THOSE SUCH AS HSU HSIN-LIANG IN 1977) AND WILL BOTH  
PRESENT VOTERS WITH A WIDER RANGE OF CANDIDATES AND  
REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF VOTERS CONTRASTING (POSSIBLY)  
WEAK KMT CANDIDATES WITH MORE ATTRACTIVE OPPOSITIONIST  
POLITICIANS IN A BLACK-OR-WHITE SITUATION. THE MOVE IS  
ALSO SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF  
DEMOCRACY ON TAIWAN. FINALLY, IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY PART OF  
THE KMT'S RESPONSE TO HIGHLY VISIBLE DEFEATS IN LAST  
NOVEMBER'S ELECTIONS. LAST YEAR'S PARTY CHOICES WERE  
OFTEN HIGHLY CRITICIZED, AND SUCH A DECISION  
SERVES NOTICE ON THE PARTY'S LOWER LEVELS THAT THEY  
SHOULD CHOOSE MORE CAREFULLY THIS YEAR. IF AN UNENDORSED  
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KMT CANDIDATE HAS A BETTER SHOWING AT THE POLLS THAN  
THE CANDIDATE NOMINATED, THE LOCAL PARTY OFFICIALS HAVE  
CLEARLY NOT IMPLEMENTED THE PARTY'S INJUNCTION TO  
CHOOSE THE BEST AVAILABLE CANDIDATES. HENCE A LITTLE  
BIT OF COMPETITION IS INTRODUCED TO INSURE A BETTER

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 AID-05 PC-01 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W

-----005046 210725Z /11/43

R 201207Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8221

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 TAIPEI 04700

CORRECTED COPY (MRN 4700 VICE 4800)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TW

SUBJECT: ROC SUPPLEMENTAL ELECTIONS

PRODUCT. AS SUCH IT COULD BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT  
IN CHIANG CHING-KUO'S EFFORT TO REVITALIZE AND REFORM  
THE KMT BY MAKING IT MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE  
PEOPLE. UNGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTIONS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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